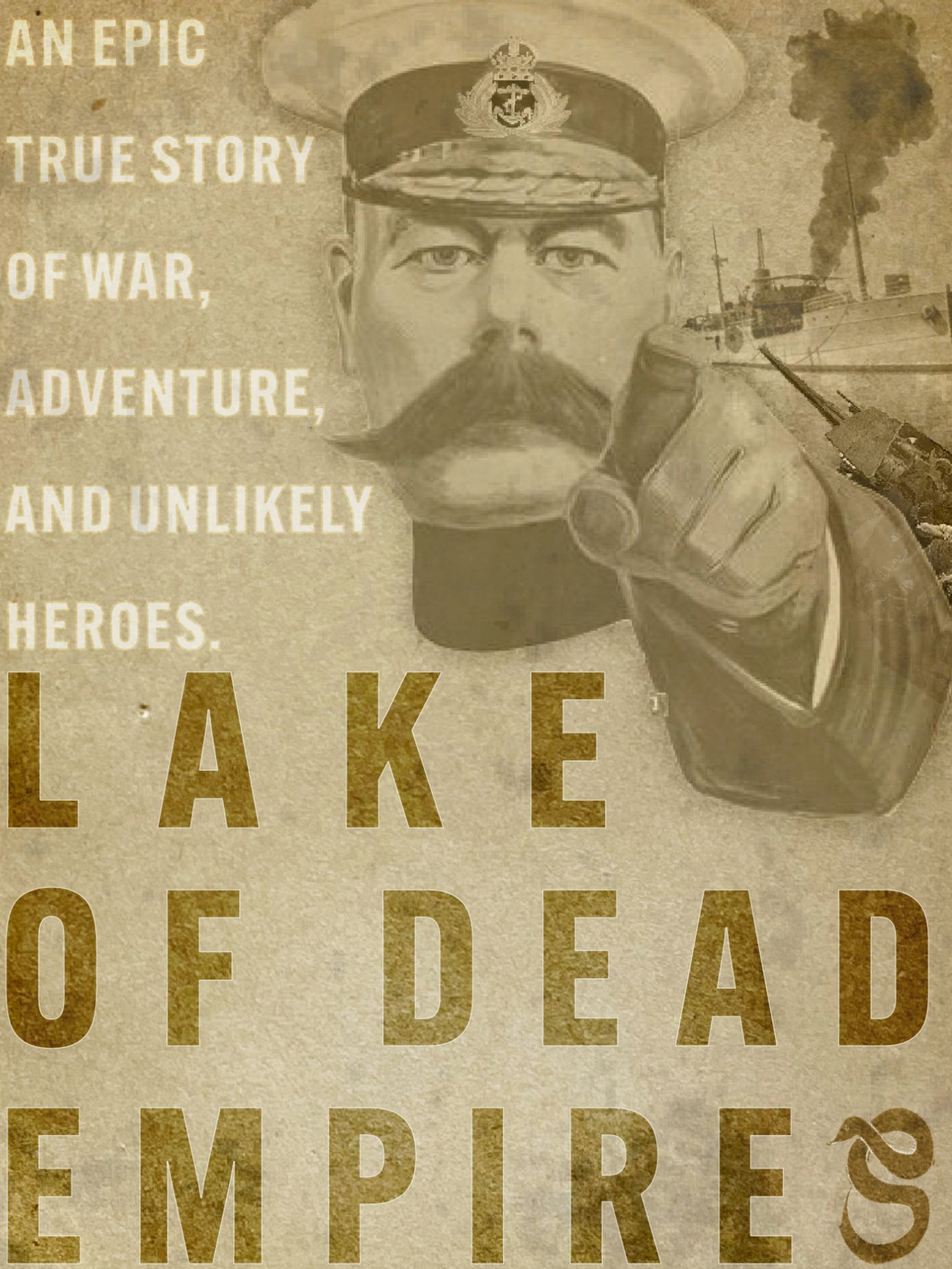




AN EPIC
TRUE STORY
OF WAR,
ADVENTURE,
AND UNLIKELY
HEROES.

LAKE OF DEAD EMPIRES



U-BOAT TORPEDOES CMDR. SPICER'S SHIP, 'HMS NIGER',
WHILE DOCKED IN THE ROYAL NAVY SHIPYARD

- 1914 -

ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

HANDYMEN TO FIGHT ON LAND & SEA

ACTION | ADVENTURE | COMEDY

WRITTEN BY
PATRICK HALE

&

JAMES HALE



MASTER AND
COMMANDER

MEETS

DEATH OF

STALIN

When WWI erupts, a loose-cannon British naval officer leads his motley crew on a death-defying mission into the heart of Africa to wrest control of Lake Tanganyika from the iron grip of the German army.



MASTER AND COMMANDER: FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD

PETER WEIR

THE MISSION

When World War I breaks out, the British navy tasks Commander Geoffrey Spicer-Simson with leading a secret mission to transport motorboats overland across Africa and seize control of Lake Tanganyika from the iron grip of the Germans.

Through a 2,500-mile journey filled with improbable challenges and hijinks, Spicer and his motley crew must overcome crocodiles, hippos, angry Belgians, babboons and malfunctioning ships to achieve victory.





APOCALYPSE NOW
FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA

ROYAL NAVY WANTED SEAMEN

FOR THE PERIOD OF HOSTILITIES

THE STORY

Accompanied by a motley crew including surgeon Dr. Hanschell, Lieutenant Wainwright, gunner Waterhouse, and a mischievous chimpanzee named Josephine, Spicer transports two armed motor boats named Mimi and Toutou overland to Lake Tanganyika. After a treacherous journey across Africa, plagued by tropical diseases, dangerous wildlife, and navigating the Congo River, they finally reach the shores of the lake. Spicer launches attacks on German gunships Hedwig and Kingani, engaging in several fierce naval battles often obscured by mist and waterspouts.

His eccentric leadership earns him the nickname "Lord Belly Cloth" among the local tribes. Despite questions surrounding Spicer's mental state, the British are victorious, capturing the Kingani gunboat and renaming it Fifi. Spicer continues launching attacks, sinking German vessels and taking prisoners.

After receiving orders to report back to England, a defiant Spicer escapes by fleeing naked into the jungle. In England, Spicer faces reprimand for his bizarre behavior and tactics, but is ultimately rewarded for completing his mission and securing control of Lake Tanganyika.



1917
SAM MENDES



STRUCTURE

LAKE OF DEAD EMPIRES is thoroughly researched and follows a linear path in time comprising of three acts, covering **1914- 1916**.

ACT ONE introduces us to Spicer and the destruction of his ship while in dock which leads to a demotion. While Spicer works in his new position he's offered the role of Commander of the mission. He begins to assemble the crew and break the news to Amy. Spicer departs, leaving his pregnant wife at home, and makes his way with his crew to South Africa, via Royal Cruise ships to avoid suspicion.

ACT TWO begins with the long trek from Cape Town, via train, steamboat and traction trailers to haul their cargo. Spicer learns valuable lessons from the Steamboat Captain.

Spicer learns valuable lessons from the Steamboat Captain. The crew begin to see good qualities in Spicer. The Germans find out about the British and begin to harass them from offshore. Spicer captures a spy and then a ship.

ACT THREE begins with a letter from Spicer's wife, the local tribe begins to deify Spicer as he continues to win on the Lake. The Germans are thwarted in their plans to take control and Spicer outwits them with Gilbert and Sullivan. Spicer begins obsessing over his wife and blatantly avoids contact with anyone, walking naked into the woods. He is found and returned to England where he is greeted by his wife and infant daughter.



DEATH OF STALIN
ARMANDO IANUCCI



RULE BRITANNIA!



tone and style

The story is historical satire with integrity, akin to *Death of Stalin*. The combat, character development and historical accuracy reminiscent of films like *Master and Commander*.

The ‘*Royal Naval Africa Expedition*’ brings together a funny, mischievous, badass group of sailors that have real character arcs. Small, tender moments are shared between the crew as they fight together. Their respect and appreciation of Spicer grows as he evolves as a leader.

A constant passion ties us to the relationship between Spicer and his pregnant wife, AMY SIMSON. While Spicer is away on mission Amy has complications with the baby and communicating through post is a frustrating experience for Spicer... *and the crew*.

FIRST LORD WINSTON CHURCHILL introduces us to current events and grounds us in the reality of war. Setting the tone with his dry wit and steady hand.

Spicer’s larger-than-life persona allows for extremely comedic moments with his love of Gilbert and Sullivan, his tattooed body, and his strange stories of foreign lands.



LAWRENCE OF ARABIA
DAVID LEAN

RECRUITS WANTED FOR THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

THE LEGEND

NAVAL
IDENTITY CARD No. 148228



Signature of Bearer

CMDR. Geoffrey Spicer-Simson

Visible distinguishing marks

Snake Tattoos



CMDR. Spicer-Simson, the leader of the Naval Africa Expedition, is proud, arrogant, and naive yet manages to complete the mission of taking control of Lake Tanganyika. His character arc involves gaining more military discipline and leadership skills throughout the journey, largely thanks to mentors like Captain Blaes. Key plot points include failing to save Captain Blaes and defeating the Germans to reclaim the lake.

TOM HARDY would be our recommendation for the role. His portrayal of BRONSON was our inspiration while writing this character.

"THE BLACKLIST, 7/10

"A riveting war epic about a military operation that has to be seen to be believed. Spicer is a larger-than-life figure not overshadowed by his mission."



BRONSON
NICOLAS WINDING REFN



CHARACTERS

Amy Spicer

The object of Spicer's affections. Quiet, caring mother-to-be, Finds out she's pregnant just before the mission begins. The tone of her letters have the power to change the trajectory of the mission a thousand miles away.

Captain Blaes

A booze-swilling, singing, aging Captain of a riverboat. Mentors Spicer through tough love and informs the crew of the jungles many dangers, seen and unseen. John C. Reilly has the right amount of gravitas, natural leadership and comedic timing for this role.

Dr. Hanschell

The expedition's doctor who looks after the crew's health and guides them on avoiding diseases. His arc involves overcoming tropical illnesses himself to care for the men. A key plot point is declaring Spicer unfit for command due to mental instability, which he ultimately does not do.

Tubby Eastwood

Spicer's translator who befriends the chimpanzee Josephine. He plays a supporting role throughout. He is accompanied by his constant companion Josephine, the chimpanzee

Lt. Wainwright

A Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve officer who serves as Spicer's second-in-command. He has no major character arc but is important for commanding the HMS Mimi in battles.

Lt. Arthur Dudley

A Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve officer who supports Spicer on the expedition. A plot point involves taking command of the deck gun when Spicer fails to hit the target.



DAS BOOT
WOLFGANG PETERSEN

THE ENEMY

General Vorbeck

German General whom assigns the mission of finding the British and placing strategic importance on control of the Lake.

Captain Zimmer

The Final and most formidable opponent as well as an accomplished sea captain. Incites a musical dual on the Lake with the German's Wagner versus the English's Gilbert and Sullivan. Gives away their position.

Lt. Odebrecht

An idea's man, Odebrecht slathers himself with grease and attempts to infiltrate the English Camp which gets him caught.

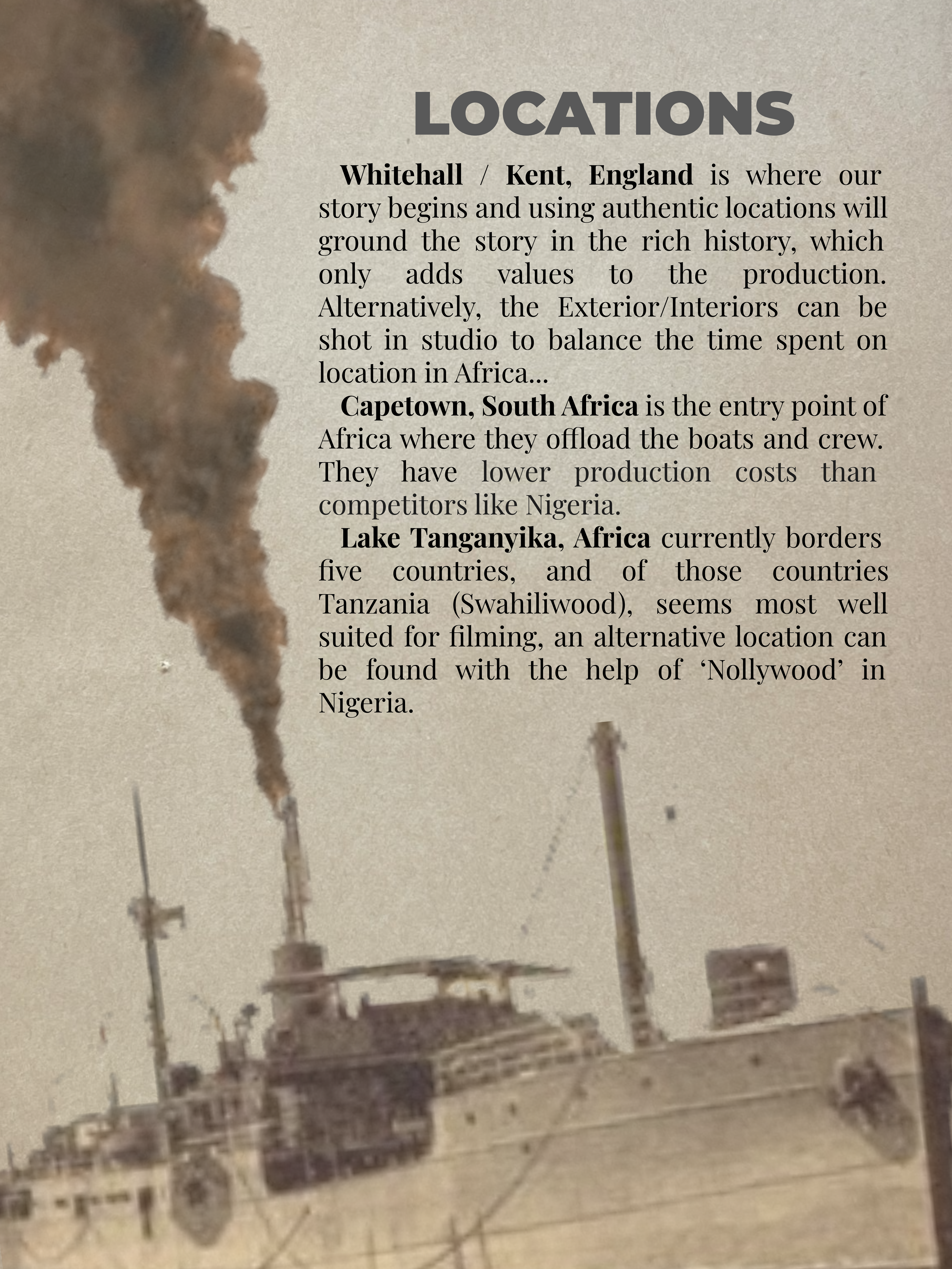
Lt. Job Rosenthal

German officer determined to thwart Spicer's mission. His body becomes fused with the hull of the ship as a result of a nearby explosion.





CITY OF GOD
FERNANDO MEIRELLES



LOCATIONS

Whitehall / Kent, England is where our story begins and using authentic locations will ground the story in the rich history, which only adds values to the production. Alternatively, the Exterior/Interiors can be shot in studio to balance the time spent on location in Africa...

Capetown, South Africa is the entry point of Africa where they offload the boats and crew. They have lower production costs than competitors like Nigeria.

Lake Tanganyika, Africa currently borders five countries, and of those countries Tanzania (Swahiliwood), seems most well suited for filming, an alternative location can be found with the help of 'Nollywood' in Nigeria.



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT
EDWARD BERGER

England Expects

Thank you.

RooksProductions.com

patrick@rooksproductions.com



*and
England must not and
will not be disappointed*